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Weekly Encourager – 18 July 2010

(from James Stacey: scriptural advice and insight on how to be set free from schizophrenia)

THE MIND OF THE SPIRIT OVERCOMING THE SCHIZOPHRENIC MIND

THIS WEEK'S SELECTED BIBLE READING IS ROMANS CHAPTER 8: Key Verses 26-28 More Than Conquerors: In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will. And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Verses 35-39 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger of sword? As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

It is a powerful advantage beyond words to know Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord before the onset of schizophrenia strikes. What a blessing it is to have walked in the ways of God and known his power ahead of the turmoil that descends with the worst psychotic disorder of all!! I am so grateful that Jesus found, saved, instructed and taught me in his ways years before the demon of schizophrenia appeared, and, therefore, did not find me an easy prey to destroy.

None of us are a match for Satan and his cohorts unless Jesus fights within us. That you or I can ever come through, survive and defeat a continuous battle of the mind is only possible trusting in the power of Jesus and his great faithfulness. But what an impossible and fruitless struggle it is to find the nerve to oppose the forces of the power of darkness, unless armed with the victorious power of the Mighty Redeemer from heaven itself!!

A living faith and full surrender to Jesus does result in a person becoming truly spiritually-minded. It is much more difficult to experience if schizophrenia came before knowing Jesus as Lord and Saviour – but NOW gloriously possible with having received the Holy Spirit. As more spiritual light, truth and knowledge comes to you from the living presence of God inspiring the true Word of God found in the Bible, the whole mind starts to be transformed. It is through the release and pouring forth of God's truth into the heart and mind that faith then arises to unseat and drive out the darkness of the schizophrenic demon.

You may rightly ask: "How can I as a true Christian schizophrenic have a spiritual mind while hampered with the presence of an imprisoned schizophrenic mind. Isn't it like living with two minds, surely a confusing existence in itself?" To obtain some real understanding for a satisfactory answer let us look at a wonderful and inspiring verse in this week's reading from Romans 8 and verse 27: "And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will."

Here is the secret! I shall never forget the day the Lord Jesus lit up the first part..."and he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit" ... after he set me free. He revealed a stage I often went through in my mind when praying against the pressure of evil voices trying to take over my life. The sustaining truth was that in spite of my natural mind being assailed, the "fighting" mind of the Spirit within me was unable to be touched and interfered with by demons. I believe it was kept secure in the promises and power of Jesus and, hence, my memory and thinking processes were unscathed in the 26-year-long battle with the psychotic illness. Even electric shock treatment did not cause any lasting damage!!

In Schizophrenia Defeated, I point out in Chapter 3 on page 23 the struggle I often faced: "But this confusion in my thinking showed nothing less than the schizophrenic pattern of living with which I was battling. In my more lucid moments, the Holy Spirit was guiding me to do one thing; when the demonic forces inside me were fully at play, my line of thinking was challenged. The problem was that this struggle in the mind was a real drain, manifesting itself more and more in a withdrawn passivity."

As a Christian schizophrenic you will be aware of a similar kind of battle taking place in your mind. It shows the personality of the demon wanting to take over your life. You must resist its presence and confront it in the power of the blood of Jesus. Assert that it has no legal right to stay a moment longer because Jesus now owns your life through dying for you on the Cross. Be bold, be strong, for the Lord your God is with you! You WILL prevail and live to see the intruder(s) ousted and your freedom imparted through the mighty hand of God.

Remember in every step of resistance you make against the demon of schizophrenia, you are becoming stronger. It takes a measure of faith and power to drive some demons out. Therefore don't give up but press on in the increasing strength Jesus is giving you. Feed on the Word of God. Pray it into your spirit as ammunition in the fight to become free. The words of Jesus are spirit and life and have power to work on your behalf. What God has promised in his Word he is well able to perform. Believe it!! Proclaim it against every power of darkness!! You will emerge with spiritual light and authority to claim and possess your own freedom.

Take hold of the words of Jesus - who poured out his life-blood for you on the Cross and imparts the same resurrection life to you that raised him from the dead - during this coming week: "If you obey what I say, then you are really my disciples, you will know the truth and the truth will set you free." (John 8:31).

When your freedom comes, you'll know a free mind no longer waging war against a mind of spiritual darkness which you will have driven from your life for good. Hallelujah!!

IF YOU WISH TO INVITE JESUS CHRIST INTO YOUR LIFE, DO PRAY THE FOLLOWING PRAYER: "Lord God Almighty, I approach you in the Name of your Son, Jesus Christ. I know I have sinned in my thoughts, words and actions. There are so many good things I have not done. There are so many sinful things I have done. I am truly sorry most of all for the sin that separates me from you and acknowledge the death of Jesus on the Cross to redeem me. Gratefully, I give my life back to you as I now ask you to come into my life. Come in as my Saviour and Lord and cleanse me. Come in as my Lord to control me. Come with the strength of your grace and the power of your Spirit to defeat the evil spirit of schizophrenia that troubles me. Now you have set my spirit free enable me to know your power as I believe that my mind too can also be completely set free. Amen.

PROCLAMATION FOR GOD'S PROTECTION

NO WEAPON that is formed against me shall prosper and every tongue which rises against me in judgement I do condemn. This is my heritage as a servant of the Lord and my righteousness is from You, O Lord of Hosts. If there are those who have been speaking or praying against me, or seeking harm or evil to me, or who have rejected me, I forgive them. Having forgiven them, I bless them in the name of the Lord." *

NOW I DECLARE, O Lord, that You and You alone are my God, and besides You there is no other – a just God and a Saviour, the Father, the Son and the Spirit – and I worship You!

I SUBMIT myself afresh to You in unreserved obedience. Having submitted to You, Lord, I do as Your Word directs. I resist the devil: all his pressures, his attacks, his deceptions, every instrument or agent he would seek to use against me. I do not submit! I resist him, drive him from me and exclude him from me in the Name of Jesus. Specifically I reject and repel: infirmity, pain, infection, inflammation, malignancies, allergies, viruses, and every form of witchcraft.

FINALLY, LORD, I thank You that through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, I have passed out from under the curse and entered into the blessing of Abraham whom You blessed in all things:** exaltation, health, reproductiveness, prosperity, victory and God's favour. AMEN

*see Matthew 5: 43-45; Romans 12:14

**see Galatians 3:13-14; Genesis 24:1

We are continuing to insert at the bottom of the Weekly Encourager, some powerful Scriptures for you to learn and commit to memory and USE in your prayer battle to drive out the demon of schizophrenia. By so doing your confidence in the Lord will grow because the words will impart "spirit and life" into your spirit, and so equip you in your fight to know the deliverance and freedom of Jesus.

There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his. Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no-one will fall by following their example of disobedience. Hebrews 4: 9-11

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world, Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8: 12

"See, it is I who created the blacksmith who fans the coals into flame and forges a weapon fit for its work. And it is I who have created the destroyer to work havoc; no weapon forged against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and this is their vindication from me," declares the LORD. Isaiah 54: 16-17

The Weekly Encourager:

25th July: Should I come off all my medication, or not?

1st August: How to find a resting place with God in prayer as you fight to become free

You maybe reading the Weekly Encourager for the first time and have stumbled across our website in a desperate search to break free of schizophrenia. Or every week you visit the W.E. for encouragement and help to overcome this "monster" of mental illnesses and receive REAL HOPE in knowing that the Lord Jesus is the only One who can open the prison door to freedom in your life once and for all time. We encourage you to keep logging into the site as often as you can for scriptural advice as we continue to point to Jesus who is well-trying and tested in the area of setting captives free from a bondage that no-one else can conquer. Our website www.schizophreniadeated.com seeks to magnify the dear Son of God who left the courts of heaven to come to our world and die for you and me on the Cross at a place called Calvary just outside Jerusalem over 2,000 years ago. In that sacrifice, he paid the punishment and penalty of your sin and mine and on the third day rose again as "The Resurrection and the Life". He releases TODAY in your life and mine, the same victorious life that brought him back from the dead, in the person of the Holy Spirit, to everyone accepting his sacrifice. Why not invite him into your life right now? It's a life-transforming experience that you CAN REALLY KNOW – which is well able to defeat and conquer the hell of schizophrenia you struggle with, for good!!

James Stacey
Pray Until Schizophrenia Heals



"I will proclaim your mighty acts,
O sovereign Lord" Psalm 71: 16